

casque during the first and second years are given. The type of *Aceros tickelli* ♀, first discovered by Colonel Tickell, is figured, with an account of the species, most of which has been published in 'The Ibis' (*t. c.*). A good drawing of *Aceros pusaran* (*plicatus*), together with original notes on its habits &c., closes one of the best sections and the last volume of Colonel Tickell's beautiful work.

XXXIII.—*Further Ornithological News from New Guinea.*

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

SINCE my article on recent ornithological progress in New Guinea (*anteà*, p. 243) was written, I have received from Count T. Salvadori a copy of an important paper* on the collections of Beccari and Bruijn made under the circumstances before described, which requires a short additional notice in order to complete the subject up to the present period.

The collection* of Beccari, made in the short space of six months, during which large quantities of specimens of other classes of animals were also procured, contains about 2000 bird-skins, referable to 313 species. It was formed principally in the Arfak mountains, in the neighbourhood of the now ornithologically-celebrated Atam, or Hatam, situated at a height of 6000 feet above the sea-level. Other stations visited in the same mountains were Warrundi (4000 feet), Mori (3500), and Profi (3400). Beccari also obtained some very fine species during his excursions to Gunong Morait and the river Wa-Samson, which was discovered by him, and reaped a rich harvest during his exploration of the various islands and localities in the great Bay of Geelvink, of which I spoke in my previous article.

Mr. Bruijn's collection was made by his hunters, princi-

* "Descrizione di cinquant-otto nuove specie di uccelli, ed osservazioni intorno ad altre poco note della Nuova Guinea e di altre Isole Papuane raccolte dal Dr. Odoardo Beccari e dai cacciatori del Sig. A. A. Bruijn. Per Tommaso Salvadori," *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova*, vii. p. 896 (1875).

pally on Mount Arfak and in the islands of the Bay of Geelvink, but also contains specimens from Dorey, Sorong, Salawatti, Waigiou, and Koffiao. It contains 2644 skins, belonging to 279 species, of which 34 only are not represented in Beccari's collection.

Thus the two collections together furnish the magnificent series of upwards of 4600 specimens, referable to about 350 species, of which no less than 58 are stated to be new to science, and are described in the present paper. Amongst them are representatives of five new forms proposed to be called *Oreocharis*, *Ramphocharis*, *Ædistoma*, *Melilestes*, and *Timeliopsis*. *Oreocharis* is a new genus of Dicæinæ; *Ramphocharis* is allied to *Melanocharis*, and referable to the same group; *Melilestes* and *Ædistoma* are two new forms of Meliphagidæ. There are also in the series many new species belonging to Australian genera, such as *Grallina bruijini* and *Drymædus affinis*. Taken together the two collections of Beccari and Bruijn contain examples of almost all the species hitherto described from New Guinea and the Papuan Islands. All the Paradise-birds yet known, with the exception of the recently discovered *Diphyllodes gulielmi-tertii* and *Epimachus ellioti*, are represented in them; and the whole series of *Paradisææ* contains nearly 800 individuals in various stages of plumage.

Salvadori, in the present paper, separates the Pygmy Parrots of the islands of Geelvink Bay, which have been described by Schlegel as local varieties, as *Nasiterna masurensis* and *N. misorensis*, and gives a description of the female of his recently discovered *N. bruijini* of the Arfak Mountains. Salvadori has compared *Leucophantes brachyurus*, Sel., with specimens of the genus *Amaurodryas* (i. e. *Petroica*), and does not agree with Meyer's notion that they are congeneric. I may add that I am quite of Salvadori's opinion. My *Leucophantes* is by no means the same as *Petroica*. Salvadori describes two new species of this genus as *L. hypoxanthus* and *L. leucops* from Mount Arfak. The *Manucodia* of Jobi is separated from *M. chalybeia* as *M. jobiensis*, upon somewhat slender grounds it appears to me, only one specimen from Jobi being in the collection. Count Salvadori will, I trust, forgive me if I

say, with due respect, that he seems to place rather too much stress upon the differences existing between local forms of the same species, as exhibited in these specimens from the different islands of the Bay of Geelvink. That these islands *do* contain many very well-marked representative forms (such as *Goura victoriae* and *Tanysiptera carolinæ*) is certain; but it by no means follows that there are no species in them identical with those of the mainland of New Guinea.

Of D'Albertis and his doings, since I last wrote, I have had many accounts from my excellent friend and correspondent Dr. George Bennett, of Sydney. D'Albertis, after accompanying the expedition of Messrs. MacFarlane and Chester up the Fly River in the 'Ellengowan' in December last, returned to Sydney to recruit his health. Of his voyage up the Fly River, which was ascended for 150 miles*, he has given a very interesting account in an article published in the 'Sydney Morning Herald,' from which I extract the following paragraphs. Speaking of the country in the neighbourhood of the highest point reached, he says:—

“Here the wild nutmeg and the gigantic figtrees are seen in fruit and luxuriance of foliage, attracting the fruit-eating Pigeons (*Carpophaga*), the Red Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*), Hornbills (*Buceros ruficollis*), and other species of frugivorous birds in great numbers. At another part are the Candle-nut tree (*Aleurites*) and several species of Canary-nut trees (*Canarium*, on the fruit of which the great Palm Cockatoos (*Microglossus aterrimus*) feed.”

“Where the jungle is not so dense a small bamboo grows, and is a place of resort for the *Megapodius* and *Talegalla*, being suitable for their food and the construction of their nests. Where the forest is more dense it is difficult to penetrate, from the entanglement of the vines and the strong-growing climbing palm (*Calamus australis*?), which throws up shoots of great length, covered with sharp spines, and long tendrils, similarly armed, ascending to the tops of the tallest trees. At this place we observe the Racket-tailed Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera dea*), frequently seen darting with a heavy

* See Proc. R. Geogr. Soc. March 13th, 1876.

dash upon a beetle or some other insect, while the beautiful King Bird-of-Paradise (*Cicinnurus regius*) may be seen climbing on the vines, displaying the bright tints of its splendid, rich, and varied colours to the bright rays of a tropical sun as it occasionally penetrates the dense foliage of the trees."

"A splendid and rare Kingfisher (*Halcyon nigrocyanea*) and another Kingfisher (*Ceyx solitaria*) are heard uttering their piercing notes by a rivulet in some secluded nook.

"Where the trees are more lofty but not so overgrown by vines, the large and noble Crowned Pigeon (*Goura*), of the size of a Turkey, is often seen walking majestically about, seeking for the fruits and seeds upon which it subsists; and on the top of the loftiest trees the magnificent Red Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*) is seen displaying under the bright sunshine its rich and beautiful plumage, and endeavouring to excite the attention of the unadorned female from its elevation, out of the reach of the arrows of the natives and of the gun of the naturalist. But the king of the forest here is the Cassowary, the footprints of which are to be seen in every muddy place, mingled with the hoof-marks of the wild boar. The night at this place is disturbed by a variety of strange noises, and probably still stranger animals; whilst at the early hours of the morning we are awakened by the piercing cries of numbers of Lories and Honey-eating Parrots (*Trichoglossus*) passing over our heads, the latter darting along with the rapidity of an arrow."

"The loud *whock-whock* emanates from the unmusical and far from celestial voice of the Birds of Paradise; and the peculiar, prolonged, loud and shrill, but mournful whistle of the great Palm Cockatoo (*Microglossus aterrimus*) and the drum-like noise of the Cassowary are heard. The scenery, if not very bold, is interesting for its novelty; and it is almost impossible to resist a kind of fascination for the wildness and novelty of our situation."

"It is difficult to express the feeling of the explorer on anchoring in a new place up a river a little before sunset, and when every object appears before him wonderful, novel, and interesting, and which, on the approach of darkness, assumes

a fantastic appearance, especially when millions of fireflies are seen flitting about in all directions; their lights reflected in clear smooth water increase the luminosity to nearly double. I may mention here that when at anchor at Kiwai Island, early in the morning and a little before sunset, thousands of the black-and-white Fruit-Pigeon (*Carpophaga spilorhoa*) were seen, as at Yule Island, going from the east to the west to their roosting-place, and in the morning would be seen returning from the west to the east; so that I consider this species of Pigeon to be almost as plentiful in this part of the world as the American Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) is in North America."

"From our anchorage at Attack Island, on the 20th December, we saw large flocks of the *Ibis strictipennis*, or Straw-throated Ibis, flying at a great elevation in a north-west direction."

"My curiosity was very much excited on hearing of Mr. Stone's supposed discovery of a 'very large bird,' and of footprints of 'buffaloes' on the Baxter River, and on reading in 'Nature' of the discovery of the dung of a 'rhinoceros' in New Guinea by Captain Moresby. I do not allude to the imaginative fauna of a Captain Lawson, because the discoveries of Captain Moresby and Mr. Stone are amply sufficient to excite the most sanguine hopes of any naturalist. But, alas! I was doomed to disappointment; for I found the fauna of the Fly River very poor, considering the character of the country and the vegetation. I could not get a glimpse of the gigantic bird, with a spread of wings of 22 feet (very considerably reduced by Mr. Stone to 16 feet); nor was I fortunate enough to see the dung of Captain Moresby's rhinoceros, nor the beast itself, nor even the footprints of the buffaloes. I think I did, however, see the bird mentioned by Mr. Stone; and I have also seen common heaps of dung so large as to make me wonder when I first saw them. With respect to the large bird, from what I have heard from more than one person who was up the Baxter River, I can safely reduce it to the moderate size of the Red-necked Hornbill (*Buceros ruficollis*); probably, in the excitement for novelties, two or three birds

starting in flight at once may have been magnified into one. The flight of the Hornbill is very peculiar, being slow and steady, with the noise of a locomotive engine. The noise made by the bird in its flight was at first recognized by some on board as that of the huge bird seen on the Baxter River; and then the colour of the bird decided the question: so, although the spread of this monster's wings has already been reduced to 16 feet, I am obliged to reduce it still further, to about 4 or 5 feet.

"With respect to the dung seen by Captain Moresby, I may remark that a stranger observing for the first time the dung of the Cassowary, and not having the experience which he would have when resident for some time in the country, would never suppose it was produced by a bird; in one of such heaps I have counted upwards of forty-three almost undigested seeds of the fruit of a *Pandanus*. It is certainly a matter of surprise to see the size of the heap of dung deposited by that bird in a wild state.

"I think it will be interesting to mention that in this part of New Guinea (nearer to Cape York than Hall Sound), I observed that the flora and fauna are more decidedly Papuan than at Hall Sound, although the latitude is almost the same.

"A number of the species of birds which I procured are denizens of New Guinea only; and here I did not see a single *Eucalyptus*; whilst at Hall Sound I have found species of birds common to both Northern Australia and New Guinea, and at least two species of *Eucalyptus* very common, as well as many of the North-Australian plants. This, judging from the flora and fauna of the Fly River, evidently shows that this part of the country is more allied to the north-west part of New Guinea than to the eastern portion."

I am glad to be able to add that D'Albertis's excursion up the Fly River has attracted a good deal of attention in Sydney, and that the Government of New South Wales have provided him with a steam-launch for the further prosecution of his discoveries. Moreover a public subscription is likely to be raised to provide for the expenses of further exploration in this direction.

Accounts of D'Albertis's excursion to Nou, Bioto, and Naiabui (small villages on the mainland opposite Yule Island) in the summer of 1875 are given in a recently published number of 'Cosmos'*; but little reference is made to birds in them.

While D'Albertis has fixed his headquarters at Yule Island, a party from Sydney has established itself at Port Moresby, a little to the south, and is making successful excursions into the interior†. As this expedition, which is under the conduct of Mr. O. C. Stone, numbers amongst its members Messrs. Broadbent and Pettard, the well-known collectors and taxidermists of Sydney, there can be little doubt that ornithology will be by no means neglected by them, and that we shall before long have to record some of their discoveries in this branch.

Since I wrote my last article Dr. A. B. Meyer has sent me a separate copy of a paper from the "Sitzungsberichte" of the 'Isis' at Dresden. It contains descriptions of *Phlegænas jobiensis*, *Micræca papuana*, *Budytes novæ-guinææ*, and *Parus arfaki* (already characterized in his article in the first number of the 'Mittheilungen aus dem k. zoologischen Museum zu Dresden,' see above, p. 256), and a summary of our knowledge of the Papuan Psittacidæ.

Mr. Gould is preparing for issue a third part of his 'Birds of New Guinea, which will contain illustrations of the following species, many of them of rare beauty and of excessive interest:—

PART III. MAY 1876.

Tanysiptera carolinæ.	Diphyllodes respublica.
Ceyx solitaria.	Cicinnurus regius.
Charmosyna josephinæ.	Pachycare flavo-grisea.
Charmosyna pulchella.	Eupetes cærulescens.
Psitteuteles arfaki.	Sternula placens.
Psitteuteles wilhelminæ.	Gliciphila subfasciata.
Psitteuteles placens.	

* "Recenti Spedizioni alla Nuova Guinea," Cosmos, vol. iii. p. 217 (April 1876).

† See Proc. R. Geogr. Soc. March 13th, 1876.

Finally, I may mention that Dr. Comrie, late surgeon of H.M.S. 'Basilisk,' under the command of Capt. Moresby, has placed in my hands for determination a small collection of bird-skins, made during the survey of the N.E. coast of New Guinea, of which Capt. Moresby has lately given us such an interesting narrative*. Amongst these are a single skin of a fine new *Manucodia*, which I described at a recent Meeting of the Zoological Society as *M. comrii*, and several examples of that rare Lory *Lorius hypænochrous* of G. R. Gray—both fine additions to the Papuan avifauna.

May 13, 1876.

XXXIV.—*Notes on a 'Catalogue of the Accipitres in the British Museum,' by R. Bowdler Sharpe (1874).* By J. H. GURNEY.

[Continued from p. 243.]

IT will be convenient in considering the Old-World species of the genus *Buteo* to commence with *B. vulgaris*; and in doing so I would remark that Mr. Sharpe only alludes in somewhat general terms to the geographical range of this species, but that a detailed account of the localities where it has been ascertained to exist will be found in Mr. Dresser's recent article on this species in his 'Birds of Europe;' and to this account I have only to add, with reference to its western range, that the Norwich Museum contains an adult pair†, with their nestling young, obtained in the island of Madeira, and, with reference to its eastern, that the same collection possesses specimens from Trebizond and Erzeroom.

It is well known that this species is very subject to partial leucotism; but how far this is limited to young birds does not appear to have been accurately ascertained; I have, however, observed that such examples usually have a straw-coloured

* See above, p. 259.

† These specimens have been recently examined by Mr. Dresser, who agrees with me in referring them to *B. vulgaris*, of which they are, in fact, typical examples.